

## Presentation

### Passive infinitive and passive -ing form

You form the passive infinitive with *to be* + past participle:

*Evidence continues to be found in the region today.*

You can use the passive infinitive with verbs that are followed by the *to* infinitive, e.g. *agree*, *demand*, *want*:

*The Prime Minister agreed to be interviewed.*

*The shopkeeper demanded to be paid.*

You form the passive -ing form with *being* + past participle:

*Erik avoided being arrested for murder.*

The passive -ing can be used with verbs that are followed by verb + -ing (e.g. *enjoy*, *hate*) or after a preposition (*bored with*, *learn by*):

*The children enjoy being taken to the zoo.*

*I'm bored with being taught history.*

### Passive reporting structures (it is said ...)

Use passive reporting structures with reporting verbs such as *said*, *thought*, *believed*, *claimed*, *reported*, *suggested*.

*It is said that he lived in Greenland.*

*Christopher Columbus was believed to be the first European to set foot in America.*

*Vikings are known to have landed on the continent.*

Passive reporting structures are formed like this:

- *It + be + past participle of reporting verb + (that) clause: It is known that he lived in Iceland.*
- *It/He/She/They + be + past participle of reporting verb + to infinitive: She is said to be unhappy here.*
- *It/He/She/They + be + past participle of reporting verb + to + have + past participle: They are believed to have lived on the island.*

The speaker in passive reporting structures is often unknown or unimportant:

*It has been reported that there is a delay.*

*He is believed to have stolen over a million dollars.*

Passive reporting structures are also used when someone wishes to remain anonymous:

*A: It has been reported that you were not at your desk.*

*B: That isn't true! Who told you that?*

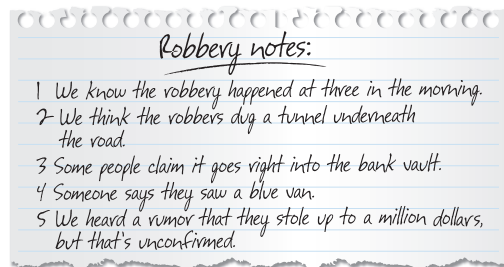
**1 Underline the correct option. In two sentences, both answers are possible.**

- 1 All the students hope to be put / being put into Mr. Brown's class.
- 2 He can't stand to be proved / being proved wrong in an argument.
- 3 Are you prepared to be asked / being asked some difficult questions?
- 4 Anyone who is late for the bus risks to be left / being left behind!
- 5 Your aunt appeared to be shocked / being shocked by the movie. What were you watching?
- 6 We knew he was missing school because he kept to be seen / being seen around town during the day.
- 7 I'm worried about not to be chosen / not being chosen for the team.
- 8 No one likes to be delayed / being delaying at airports.
- 9 The winning team stopped in their hometown to be cheered / being cheered by their fans after they won the cup.

**2 Match 1–6 with A–F.**

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|--|---|
| 1 In the past, it was believed that .....  | A review their education policy.                |
| 2 It is commonly known that .....          | B most students are in debt.                    |
| 3 It has been claimed that there are ..... | C the world was flat.                           |
| 4 A serious car crash is reported .....    | D to have happened on the highway this morning. |
| 5 Native Americans are thought .....       | E other life forms in the universe.             |
| 6 The government has agreed to .....       | F to have crossed over originally from Asia.    |

**3 Rewrite the reporter's sentences starting with the words in 1–5.**



- 1 It is known that the robbery happened at three in the morning .....
- 2 It is ..... .
- 3 It is ..... .
- 4 A blue van is said to have ..... .
- 5 The robbers are ..... .

**4 Complete the text with the words in parentheses, using reporting passive structures.**

When Columbus proposed a plan to reach the East by sailing west, <sup>1</sup> ..... (it / criticize) by many people including his own King of Portugal. <sup>2</sup> ..... (it / claim) that Columbus had underestimated the actual circumference of the Earth. Eventually, Columbus is <sup>3</sup> ..... (know / convince) the King and Queen of Spain who <sup>4</sup> ..... (expect / reward) him with new lands. After some weeks at sea, his crew were growing angry and Columbus only <sup>5</sup> ..... (avoid / kill) by the desperate men when an island was finally sighted. The island <sup>6</sup> ..... (believe / be) part of what is now the Bahamas.